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REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES FROM THE TERRITORIES OF THE BALTIC STATES

Letter dated 14 August 1992 from the representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to address Your Excellency, upon instructions from our Governments, to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Complete withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territories of the Baltic States".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum concerning the request is annexed to the present letter.

(Signed) Ernst JAAKSON
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Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Estonia
to the United Nations

(Signed) Aivars BAUMANIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
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(Signed) Algimantas GURECKAS
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ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

After regaining their independence, the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were admitted to membership in the United Nations in 1991, during the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, as sovereign and independent States. One year later, foreign military forces remain stationed on the territories of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania without their consent. The Governments of the Baltic States consider the presence of these foreign military forces to be a threat to the maintenance of international peace and security. 1/ The Governments of the Baltic States request, in accordance with Article 11 of the Charter of the United Nations, that the matter of the complete withdrawal of these foreign military forces from their territories should be included as a separate item in the agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

The leaders of the Group of Seven industrial powers stated in Munich, on 7 July 1992, that a State, despite economic difficulties,

> ... must not be allowed to hinder the application of the principle of international law to the effect that military forces may not be stationed on the territory of another State without its consent.

The Governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have attempted to secure the complete withdrawal of the foreign military forces on their territories through regional efforts. In Helsinki, on 10 July 1992, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) declared as follows:

> The participating States express support for efforts by CSCE signatories to remove, in a peaceful manner and through negotiations, the problems that remain from the past, like the stationing of foreign armed forces on the territories of the Baltic States without the required consent of those countries. Therefore, in line with basic principles of international law and in order to prevent any possible conflict, we call on the participating States concerned to conclude, without delay, appropriate bilateral agreements, including timetables, for the early, orderly and complete withdrawal of such foreign troops from the territories of the Baltic States.

Since the statement of CSCE, the Governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania each have continued to conduct their bilateral negotiations on the subject of the complete withdrawal of the foreign military forces from their territories. 2/ To date, these negotiations have been largely unsuccessful.

The Governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, concerned with the threat to international peace and security arising from the presence of foreign troops on their territories and mindful that the United Nations has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security, request

the support of the United Nations for efforts to conclude, without delay, appropriate agreements for the early, orderly and complete withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territories of the Baltic States.

The inclusion of this matter in the agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly would constitute a timely application of preventive diplomacy in a region where the maintenance of international peace and security may be threatened.

The Governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania suggest that the agenda item entitled "Complete withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territories of the Baltic States" be referred to the plenary Assembly.

Notes

1/ See S/23287, S/23756, S/23864, S/24015, S/24139 and S/24236.

2/ See S/23590 and S/23591.